

CLASSIFICATION SECRET/

East Germany

COUNTRY _____ REPORT

TOPIC Merseburg Airfield

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EVALUATION _____ PLACE OBTAINED _____

638575

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DATE OF CONTENT _____

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DATE OBTAINED _____

DATE PREPARED 3 August 1954

REFERENCES _____

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) _____REMARKS _____
This is UNEVALUATED

1. During the period from 29 June to 6 July 1954, almost no air activity was conducted at Merseburg airfield and non-local aircraft crossed over the installation very seldom. Only on 30 June between 1200 and 1700, local flights of 3 or 4 minutes duration were continuously made by a U-MIG-15 [redacted]

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The alert flight of 4 MiG-15s parked at the eastern edge of the field did not participate in air activity. About 1715 on 5 July, three flights of MiG-15s landed at the field coming from the east. The formations approached the field at intervals of about 1 km, then dispersed the formation while flying a left bank over the field, and subsequently landed individually. On 6 July between 1400 and 1800, U-MIG-15 [redacted] was observed at the zeroing-in stand. The tail of the aircraft was propped up. A man was observed in the front seat and every 15 minutes a round was fired with the aircraft's armament, probably a 37-mm gun, as was inferred from the detonation heard. An additional 12 MiG-15s were parked at the field including 4 in front of the westernmost hangar and 8 in the southeastern corner of the landing field between the hangar at the eastern edge and the nearest hangar at the southern edge. All the hangars were open and vacant. No aircraft could be observed in the aircraft revetments which were seen from the north and south. A total of 17 MiG-15s including the alert flight were observed at the field. The personnel strength at the field was still estimated at 1,700 men wearing black-bordered blue epaulets and 150 men wearing red-bordered black epaulets. 1

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2. Four or 5 house trailers and 2 radio trucks were parked west of the dispersal area of the alert flight. One of the radio trucks had a rod antenna on top and the other one a windsock. Next to the trucks was a 15-meter-high mast with several guy wires and a rhombus-shaped frame, about 70 cm high, fixed on one corner on the masthead. The Kniferest-type radar set previously observed just south of the vinegar factory near the underpass of Lauchstaetter Strasse was removed. No changes were observed on the lighting facilities at the field, only the truck mounting a searchlight had changed; [redacted]

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3. On 6 July, the AA gun emplacement at the eastern edge of the landing field was newly occupied. Each emplacement consisted of 6 circular earth walls arranged in the shape of a hexagon. No communication trenches were observed between the individual emplacements. Each of the four northern emplacements was occupied by a gun with a barrel, about 4 meters long. No muzzle brakes were observed. Between the years 1946 and 1951, a collecting point for captured guns of various types was located at Herseburg airfield.³ No fuel supply shipment was observed after 29 June.¹

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1. Comment. It has not been determined at which airfield the aircraft of the fighter regiment were stationed between late May and early July 1954. For information on the change of occupation at Herseburg airfield,

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2. Comment. The present equipment with radar sets cannot be inferred from this report. In late April 1954, 1 Token-type set and 2 Kniferest-type sets were located there. Prior to late April, 1 Dumbo-type set had additionally been observed there. The Token-type set was last observed on 18 May 1954. It appears that 1 Kniferest-type set has also been removed. The type of the radio installation with one mast cannot be identified.

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3. Comment. It is believed that 1 AA battery with 37-mm AA guns is located at Herseburg airfield.

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